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| 09/829,820 | 04/10/2001 | Tadaaki Yoneda | KOT-0027 | 1924 |

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CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002

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| EXAMINER |
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AGGARWAL, YOGESH K

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2622

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/829,820 | Applicant(s) YONEDA, TADAAKI | |
| | Examiner Yogesh K. Aggarwal | Art Unit 2622 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 25, 29, 31 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 29 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/14/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In regards to claims 1, 2, 12, 16 and 20 the newly recited limitations “wherein hardware printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristic, ribbon size or ribbon color”. It is noted that sharpness characteristic of an image is not a hardware characteristic rather a software implemented correction technique. Therefore claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, 16 and 20 will be interpreted as a sharpness characteristic implemented with any kind of software.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 29 and 32 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 29 and 32 should be cancelled because the claims, which they are dependent from namely 28 and 23, are cancelled. Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent # 6,111,605) in view of Shindo et al. (US Patent # 6,693,665).

[Claim 1]

Suzuki '605 teaches an imaging apparatus (figure 1) comprising an image sensor (105) for inputting an object image and for obtaining image signals (col. 10 lines 38-41), an image processing means (113) for image-processing the obtained image signals according to printer characteristic information (col. 12 line 59-col. 13 line 47, figure 6). Suzuki further teaches that the image after being processed by the image processing means is stored in the memory 103 (col.

Art Unit: 2622

14 lines 8-12, figure 7) and therefore displayed on the display means (102) after reading from the memory card.

Suzuki fails to teach wherein the printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristics, ribbon size or ribbon color.

However Shindo et al. teaches a camera (camera along with the base is read as one unit) connected with a printer 4 (figure 1). Shindo further teaches that before printing the image stored in the memory is displayed on the display unit 21 in order to be confirmed by the user (col. 6 lines 25-35, figure 3). Shindo also teaches that after an image to-be printed is selected, selection of a mode in which printing is to be performed (a divisional number, a color or white/black and setting of a color tone, a sharpness degree and so forth) is performed by operations of the buttons of the connection base 3, and then the printing button B6 (refer to FIG. 5) is depressed and image data to be printed is read out from the electronic camera 2 (col. 6 lines 47-56, figure 5).

Thereafter, the sharpness and other image processing functions are performed by the printer (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4). It is noted that the printer characteristics are recited in a Markush group wherein a process or a combination, it is sufficient if the members of the group are disclosed in the specification to possess only one of the members of the group.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki and Shindo, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to have been motivated to have the printer characteristic information including sharpness being performed by the printer according to the characteristic information being set by the camera in order to generate an image that is sharpened thereby making the image quality and clarity more discernible to the user.

Art Unit: 2622

[Claim 2]

Suzuki teaches an imaging apparatus (figure 1) comprising an image sensor (105) for inputting an object image and for obtaining image signals (col. 10 lines 38-41), a first image processing means (107, 108) for image-processing the obtained image signals (col. 11 lines 24-31), a second image processing means (113) for image-processing the obtained image signals according to printer characteristic information (col. 12 line 59-col. 13 line 47, figure 6). Suzuki further teaches a “deletion” mode for deleting picture information stored in the memory 114 (col. 11 line 63-col. 12 line 8) and an “input” mode for inputting picture information section (col. 12 lines 10-51) and a “recording” mode for recording the picture information into the memory 114 that is inputted during the inputted mode (col. 12 lines 52-56). Therefore if a “deleting” mode is selected the image is processed without the picture information processing means and if a “recording” mode is selected the image is processed according to picture information means recorded in the memory 114. Suzuki further teaches that the image after being processed by the image processing means is stored in the memory card 103 (col. 14 lines 8-12, figure 7) and therefore displayed on the display means (102) after reading from the memory card in both modes.

Suzuki fails to teach wherein the printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristics, ribbon size or ribbon color.

However Shindo et al. teaches a camera (camera along with the base is read as one unit) connected with a printer 4 (figure 1). Shindo further teaches that before printing the image stored in the memory is displayed on the display unit 21 in order to be confirmed by the user (col. 6 lines 25-35, figure 3). Shindo also teaches that after an image to-be printed is selected, selection

Art Unit: 2622

of a mode in which printing is to be performed (a divisional number, a color or white/black and setting of a color tone, a sharpness degree and so forth) is performed by operations of the buttons of the connection base 3, and then the printing button B6 (refer to FIG. 5) is depressed and image data to be printed is read out from the electronic camera 2 (col. 6 lines 47-56, figure 5).

Thereafter, the sharpness and other image processing functions are performed by the printer (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4). It is noted that the printer characteristics are recited in a Markush group wherein a process or a combination, it is sufficient if the members of the group are disclosed in the specification to possess only one of the members of the group.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki and Shindo, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to have been motivated to have the printer characteristic information including sharpness being performed by the printer according to the characteristic information being set by the camera in order to generate an image that is sharpened thereby making the image quality and clarity more discernible to the user.

[Claim 3]

Suzuki teaches a memory means (103) for storing the obtained image signals, wherein the first and second image processing means image-process the respective image signals means stored in the memory (col. 14 lines 8-13).

[Claims 4 and 5]

Shindo teaches wherein the printer characteristic information is contained in the imaging apparatus (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4).

[Claims 6-9]

Art Unit: 2622

Suzuki teaches an input means for inputting the printer characteristic information is inputted from a printer from outside of the imaging apparatus when the printer is connected with the imaging apparatus (col. 17 lines 14-26).

[Claims 10 and 11]

Suzuki teaches in figure 11 a printer connected to the camera so that the selection means selects the second image processing means (113).

[Claim 12]

Suzuki teaches an imaging apparatus (figure 11) comprising an image sensor (105) for inputting an object image and for obtaining image signals (col. 10 lines 38-41), a first output means (122) for outputting the image signals an outside; and an image recording apparatus (301) having an input means (302) for inputting the image signals output from the first output means (122), an image processing means (305) for image-processing the image signals (col. 13 lines 45-47). An image recording means would be inherently present in the printer for printing on the basis of the image signals processed by the image processing means and to display on the display means 304. Suzuki teaches a second output means (304) for outputting the image signals processed by the image processing means to an outside (col. 11 lines 17-22).

Suzuki fails to teach wherein the printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristics, ribbon size or ribbon color.

However Shindo et al. teaches a camera (camera along with the base is read as one unit) connected with a printer 4 (figure 1). Shindo further teaches that before printing the image stored in the memory is displayed on the display unit 21 in order to be confirmed by the user (col. 6

Art Unit: 2622

lines 25-35, figure 3). Shindo also teaches that after an image to-be printed is selected, selection of a mode in which printing is to be performed (a divisional number, a color or white/black and setting of a color tone, a sharpness degree and so forth) is performed by operations of the buttons of the connection base 3, and then the printing button B6 (refer to FIG. 5) is depressed and image data to be printed is read out from the electronic camera 2 (col. 6 lines 47-56, figure 5).

Thereafter, the sharpness and other image processing functions are performed by the printer (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4). It is noted that the printer characteristics are recited in a Markush group wherein a process or a combination, it is sufficient if the members of the group are disclosed in the specification to possess only one of the members of the group.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki and Shindo, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to have been motivated to have the printer characteristic information including sharpness being performed by the printer according to the characteristic information being set by the camera in order to generate an image that is sharpened thereby making the image quality and clarity more discernible to the user.

[Claim 13]

Suzuki teaches in steps S612 and S614 (figure 12) that the image recording apparatus (Printer) conducts processing on the basis of instructions from the imaging apparatus (DSVC) when the imaging apparatus is connected with the image recording apparatus.

[Claim 14]

Suzuki teaches an I/F device 201 connection between a camera and a printer (figures 2a and 2b), which inherently can transfer image data in both directions, therefore the DSVC displays image data after it has been processed by the printer.

Art Unit: 2622

[Claims 16 and 17]

Suzuki teaches an image recording system (figure 1) comprising an image recording apparatus (101) having a first input means (105) for inputting image signals (col. 10 lines 38-41), an image processing means (113) for image-processing the image signals according to a printer characteristic (col. 12 line 59-col. 13 line 47, figure 6), an image recording means (103) for printing according the image signals processed by the image processing means (col. 14 lines 8-12, figure 7). An arrow from IPP 107 (fig. 1) to the display section 102 is used as an output means for outputting the image to the display section 102.

Suzuki fails to teach wherein the printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristics, ribbon size or ribbon color.

However Shindo et al. teaches a camera (camera along with the base is read as one unit) connected with a printer 4 (figure 1). Shindo further teaches that before printing the image stored in the memory is displayed on the display unit 21 in order to be confirmed by the user (col. 6 lines 25-35, figure 3). Shindo also teaches that after an image to-be printed is selected, selection of a mode in which printing is to be performed (a divisional number, a color or white/black and setting of a color tone, a sharpness degree and so forth) is performed by operations of the buttons of the connection base 3, and then the printing button B6 (refer to FIG. 5) is depressed and image data to be printed is read out from the electronic camera 2 (col. 6 lines 47-56, figure 5). Thereafter, the sharpness and other image processing functions are performed by the printer (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4). It is noted that the printer characteristics are recited in a Markush group

Art Unit: 2622

wherein a process or a combination, it is sufficient if the members of the group are disclosed in the specification to possess only one of the members of the group.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki and Shindo, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to have been motivated to have the printer characteristic information including sharpness being performed by the printer according to the characteristic information being set by the camera in order to generate an image that is sharpened thereby making the image quality and clarity more discernible to the user.

[Claim 18]

Suzuki teaches that a user enters instructions from the operation display section 116, wherein the image recording apparatus conducts recording operation according to instructions from the image display apparatus when the image display apparatus is connected with the image recording apparatus (col. 11 line 48-col. 12 line 67, figures 3-6).

[Claim 20]

Suzuki teaches an image recording apparatus (figure 1, element 101) comprising an input means (105) for inputting image signals (col. 10 lines 38-41), an image processing means (113) for image-processing the image signals input from the image input means according to a print characteristic (col. 12 line 59-col. 13 line 47, figure 6), an image recording means (103) for printing according to the image signals processed by the image processing means (col. 14 lines 8-12, figure 7) An arrow from IPP 107 (fig. 1) to the display section 102 is used as an output means for outputting the image to the display section 102.

Art Unit: 2622

Suzuki fails to teach wherein the printer characteristic information comprises information read from a printer from the group consisting of sharpness characteristics, ribbon size or ribbon color.

However Shindo et al. teaches a camera (camera along with the base is read as one unit) connected with a printer 4 (figure 1). Shindo further teaches that before printing the image stored in the memory is displayed on the display unit 21 in order to be confirmed by the user (col. 6 lines 25-35, figure 3). Shindo also teaches that after an image to-be printed is selected, selection of a mode in which printing is to be performed (a divisional number, a color or white/black and setting of a color tone, a sharpness degree and so forth) is performed by operations of the buttons of the connection base 3, and then the printing button B6 (refer to FIG. 5) is depressed and image data to be printed is read out from the electronic camera 2 (col. 6 lines 47-56, figure 5). Thereafter, the sharpness and other image processing functions are performed by the printer (col. 6 line 63-col. 7 line 4). It is noted that the printer characteristics are recited in a Markush group wherein a process or a combination, it is sufficient if the members of the group are disclosed in the specification to possess only one of the members of the group.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki and Shindo, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to have been motivated to have the printer characteristic information including sharpness being performed by the printer according to the characteristic information being set by the camera in order to generate an image that is sharpened thereby making the image quality and clarity more discernible to the user.

Art Unit: 2622

8. Claims 15, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US Patent # 6,111,605), Shindo et al. (US Patent # 6,693,665) and in further view of Ogawa et al. (US Patent # 6,603,506).

[Claims 15, 19, 21]

Suzuki in view of Shindo teaches all the limitations of claims 1, 16 and 20 but fails to teach a template processing that is conducted to input image signals in the image recording means, the template processing resulting in a template being incorporated into the image signals when subsequently viewed and/or printed.

However Ogawa et al. teaches a display for form data and the image data and the two being integrated and can be viewed and/or printed (col. 10 lines 14-20, col. 1 lines 45-50, figure 17) in order to have a printer that is decorated with any decorative information viewed and printed by the user.

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Suzuki, Shindo and Ogawa, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have a template processing that is conducted to input image signals in the image recording means, the template processing resulting in a template being incorporated into the image signals when subsequently viewed and/or printed in order to have a printer that is decorated with any decorative information viewed and printed by the user.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K. Aggarwal whose telephone number is (571) 272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

Art Unit: 2622

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YKA

June 5, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ometz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER